

least one telecommunication service offering capability of satisfying the requested service, and
(iii) providing an acceptance to the response during the session (Claim 8). Mashinsky does not teach or suggest these presently claimed methods and systems.

In particular, Mashinsky neither teaches nor suggests the presently claimed methods in which
(1) the buyer makes a purchase request for telecommunication services, (2) the buyer receives one or more responses from service providers who have indicated (in response to that particular request, in response to similar requests, or independent of any request) that they are capable of and willing to provide the requested services, and (3) the buyer has the option of accepting at least one of the responses during the same session. Nor does Mashinsky teach or suggest the claimed systems in which a session is established for a client to input a purchase request, access stored responses, and accept a response during the session.

Mashinsky relates to cost-effectively and dynamically routing calls via an international gateway network. (*See, e.g.*, col. 16, lines 27-42). Mashinsky permits dynamic routing of transit and terminating traffic to gateway switches in the gateway network or any other network. *Id.* The present claims are directed to a completely different invention by providing methods and systems for purchasing telecommunication services.

Additionally, the relied upon portions of the reference do not teach or suggest the present claims. For example, at col. 9, lines 22-33, the reference discusses buying and/or selling service connect time via a server node. It does not teach storing a set of responses to purchase requests for telecommunication services, each response reflecting at least one telecommunication service offering associated with one of the service providers and a related cost for the telecommunication service offering.

By way of further example, col. 11, lines 31-55 of Mashinsky relates to entering information into a computer to aid a server node in making routing decisions and brokering transactions between

provider carriers and requester carriers. The reference does not teach or suggest a buyer establishing a session for inputting a purchase request, and a buyer providing an acceptance to a response.

Furthermore, the reference teaches away from the claimed methods and systems in teaching an ongoing, dynamic process that involves an automatic hook up of services, as opposed to the presently claimed invention that involves a buyer establishing a session for considering the purchase of services and allows the buyer an opportunity to accept a response.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the claims is anticipated or rendered obvious by Mashinsky.

Conclusion

Because Mashinsky neither teaches nor suggests the claimed methods and systems, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at (703) 744-8029 if it is believed that a telephone interview would in advance of the prosecution of this application.


Because this response is being submitted within the three month shortened statutory period, it is believed that no fee is due in connection with this filing. If, however, any fees are deemed necessary, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a request is hereby

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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